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National Soccer League 2000/01
Round 17

Volume 4 Number 7

Match Day Champion

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Chairman's Message

At the halfway point of the season our team is poised just between NSL heaven and hell. A few losses, and we'll be in unfortunately familiar end of season territory, battling amongst the trailing teams to avoid the ignominy of the bottom places. On the other hand, if we secure some early points and maintain consistency, Cosmos will be challenging for that treasured sixth place and a berth in the final series.

Have we got what it takes? And when I say "we", I mean all of us. You're not a Cosmos fan because you've got nothing better to do on a weekend: you're a Cosmos fan because you believe in the collective power we need to achieve our ambitions. Which reminds me of this rather strange short story I once read about a fictional soccer game.

All of the fans were issued with a small piece of reflective material. When the referee gave a dubious penalty to the visiting team, the crowd of some 100,000 home team supporters used the foil to reflect the sun's rays on to him, with a predictable fate befalling the poor man.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that we should do the same thing, to the ref or anyone else for that matter! The story is a perverse but startling reminder that each one of us can contribute to the success of our club, even if only in a small way. Coming to watch, cheering your heroes and telling your friends all help the Club to grow and prosper. Can we do it?

There are many promising signs. The team is a stable one, with the right combination of function and flair. We don't fear any of our opponents, because we've beaten most of them before and we can do it again. Being the underdog gives a strong psychological boost: it's the equalising factor which makes sport such an exciting contest.

Over the past month, the staff at the Cosmos office have been occupied with the planning required to spread our soccer message to the youth of Canberra. I am thrilled to announce that our bag of soccer goodies, going to all junior and senior soccer registrants this year, will be sponsored by a strong locally based organisation with a vision for the future which has a strong resonance with our own.

All will be revealed in the fortnight leading up to soccer registration day, which this year is on Saturday 17 February. Cosmos Kit will be handed out by local soccer clubs, whose loyalty towards Cosmos and great assistance is hugely appreciated by us. Kids will enjoy the fun and the feeling of the world game through the free family pass, Kidz of the Cosmos membership and colouring competition in the Kit. And parents benefit as well, with special discount vouchers and other helpful information in the Kit.

Now, let's get on with business! Join with me as we support our team, through the good times and the bad, as we fight to get Cosmos up the NSL table!

Danny Moulis
Chairman, Canberra Cosmos FC

Canberra Cosmos
Founded: 1995

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Football House,
3 Phipps Close,
Deakin, ACT, 2600

Telephone:
(02) 6281 7981

Facsimile:
(02) 6281 7984

E-mail Address:
info@cosmosfc.com

Home Ground:
Bruce Stadium

Chairman:
Daniel Moulis

Head Coach:
Tom Sermanni

Assistant Coach:
Tony Brennan

Manager:
Tony Borgia

Team Doctor:
Dr. Trevor Law

Physiotherapist:
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Cosmos News - Preview

There's plenty of news about this week with the most important being that defender Hiroshi Miyazawa has signed until the end of this season. So quickly has he become a member of the squad that Cosmos without him would have seemed a fragile Cosmos indeed.

As you read this Alex Castro is trialing in South America. He'll be missed this evening and if he's successful and doesn't come back it could be a bit of a worry for Tom Sermanni. Despite that we wish Alex all the best in the big world of real football.

Last Thursday saw the end of two very successful coaching clinics, one at Mawson last week in dreadful heat, and the one this week at Hawker in better weather. By all accounts all participants enjoyed themselves and benefited from the experience and talent of Cosmos players and staff.

This evening we welcome one of the strengths of Australian soccer, Marconi Stallions. Marconi has been in the NSL since its inception in 1977. They were runners up in that very first season, champions in the third and have been champions three times since.

For many years Marconi were the benchmark in organisation and development. They have their own ground (what a luxury) and a vibrant social club. Marconi are a very successful sports business with, arguably, one of their most notable achievements being to bring Tom Sermanni out to Australia.

Our first encounter with Marconi this season saw a depleted Cosmos (David Milin was red carded in the first half) defeated 1-0. Last weekend Marconi extended an unbeaten run since round ten by defeating Parramatta 2-1.

A recent acquisition for Marconi has been former Carlton striker Archie Thomson who scored two goals against us when we played Carlton in the first round. We'll need to keep an eye on him.

Other players we need to be wary of are defenders Dominic Longo (man of the match against Parramatta last week) and Angelo Costanzo, both of whom are capable of breaking out of defence and scoring.

Should be a great match and if Cosmos play to their abilities, a rewarding one.

Oh, and by the way, don't forget that ***The Cosmos Kit is Coming!***

John Bonnett

Do you eat to live or live to eat?

One of the major cultural changes that have occurred within Australia in the last 30 years is the importance we place on diet.

We have seen different cuisine come in and out of fashion but one truth remains, we have become a country that lives to eat rather than eats to live.

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Sermanni Says...

We've taken things fairly lightly at training this last week considering we had the bye on the weekend. But rest assured, our training has returned to normal, and the guys are extremely keen to get the second half of the season off on a positive note.

While most of the players spent the weekend away from football, I was on the job in Sydney and saw both the Northern Spirit vs Sydney United clash and our next opponents Marconi take on Parramatta. Marconi have a very strong defensive team led by Mark Babic and Dominic Longo, who are both Australian internationals, so it's important that our midfielders and strikers are on top of their game.

The other thing I've noticed about Marconi recently is their toughness brought about by the competitiveness within the group. They're extremely tough mentally as well as physically and are starting to play really well together as a team.

Since Carlton's exit from the competition late last year, it's interesting to note that each week Marconi play the side that has last had the bye. It's hard to say whether this has anything to do with their good form of late, but I don't think they've dropped a game during this time.

It's not the best omen for us, but I'm confident the bye has helped rather than hindered our preparation. It's come at the perfect time in the middle of the season and from what I understand the players have all had a relaxing weekend and can't wait to get out on the paddock.

We have a few injury concerns within the squad at the moment and we'll enter the match against Marconi below our full strength. Marcus Phillips is going in for a hernia operation later this week, while Andrew Ravanello is still struggling with his hamstring. Our super-sub in recent weeks Mark Hagger, is also unlikely to take his place after twisting his ankle at training on Thursday of last week. He will be given until later this week to prove his fitness, but at this stage he will find it difficult to get on the track.

Alex Castro is also unavailable indefinitely due to his trial with a South American club.

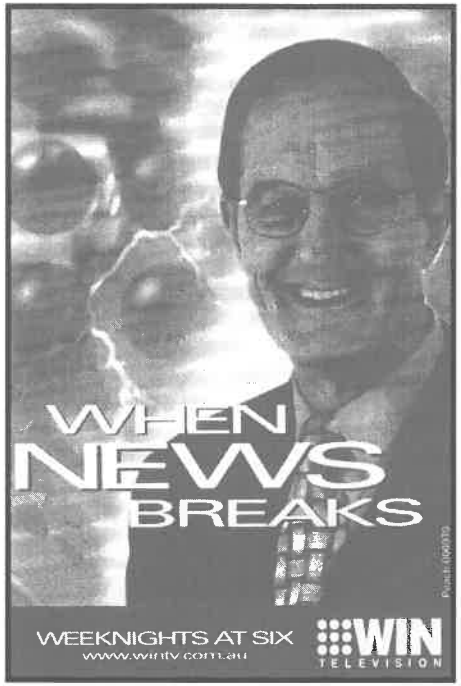
In other player news we've reached agreement with Japanese defender Hiroshi Miyazawa to keep him at the club for the rest of the season.

Tonight's game is of great importance because it will be in front of our fans. While I've been relatively pleased with our performance during the first half of the year, most of our good results have been achieved away from home. We're desperate to give our Canberra fans something to cheer about, and we couldn't think of a better way than by winning this evening.

Five of our next six matches will be played at Bruce Stadium, so it gives us the perfect opportunity to get the second half of the season off with a bang.

Tom Sermanni
Head Coach, Canberra Cosmos FC

We would like to acknowledge the Canberra Chronicle for it's support with this article.



Football Facts

The 'Obstruction' Law (Impeding)

There are 17 Laws of the Game as outlined in FIFA's Official Laws of the Game that is published each year. Every referee receives a copy of this chart and is taken through the changes at an Annual Seminar before the start of the season. "Fouls and Misconduct" are dealt with under Law 12.

One of the fouls that draws a lot of speculation is what is often incorrectly called obstruction. Perhaps it is because in AFL obstruction (indeed very often dangerous obstruction) is allowed and in the rugby codes obstruction means quite a different thing than it does in football.

Interestingly Law 12 does not mention the word 'obstruction'. The only mention is that

*An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, if a player, in the opinion of the referee, **impedes the progress** of an opponent.*

A referee has to decide if the player has prevented the opponent from progressing, usually without the ball, and usually into an area where he is to receive or attack the ball or into an area where he would be in a position to receive the ball.

A player who has the ball under control **within playing distance** is not guilty of impeding. In other words a player can 'shield' the ball from his opponent using his body and turning his back on his opponent quite legally. In fact it is very difficult for an opponent to get the ball without fouling the player with the ball, that we often see shielding with the obvious intention of drawing the foul, while the coach is vainly shouting "No foul, no foul."

What has tended to occur recently has been the player who is 'shielding' the ball for a goal kick or throw in, using his body, and the ball has gone further and further away from his feet until it is not **within playing distance**. In this situation, the player shielding is actually impeding the other player and should be penalised.

Any player who intentionally impedes an opponent by crossing directly in front of him or running between him and the ball or intervening so as to form an obstacle with the aim of delaying his advance, must also be penalised. Here the referee has to be aware of the player who pushes the ball past a defender and then intentionally runs into the defender and claims the defender has impeded him. A defender cannot dematerialise at will!

The punishment for impeding a player is an indirect free kick. However, if a player intentionally **halts** the progress of an opponent by **physical contact**, whether using his hand, arm or leg or any other part of his body, **this is not impeding but holding** and the result will be a **direct free kick** or a penalty kick, if the offence was committed in the penalty area.

Now try this one! Watch at the taking of the corners tonight how players jostle for positions. See if any of the players actually **impede** an opponent from taking up a position, or if any of the players **hold an opponent**. Technically these are all offences and should be punished and sometimes they are, normally with a free kick to the defending team, occasionally with a penalty kick. On most occasions, however, the referee applies Rule 18 (the unwritten rule relating to common sense) and allows play to continue.

Chris Conti

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National Youth Team Lists

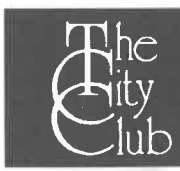
1	Rade Kosanovic	1	Daniel Schwarzer
2	Aidan Griffiths	2	Todd Brodie
3	Dom Labutte	3	Anthony Hartshorn
4	Luke Morgan	4	Saso Trajcevski
5	Ryan O'Grady	5	Steve Bozinoski
6	Phillip Yarnold	6	Ryan Manente
7	Stephen Kemp	7	Frank De Roit
8	Daniel Byrne	8	Marco Maisano
9	Daniel Raad	9	Grant Last
10	Brent Turner	10	Kevo Gulesserian
11	Adam Williams	11	Anthony Mondello
12	Yosef Zamora	12	Erick Anabalon
13	Daniel Aliffi	13	Nathan Rivera
14	Daniel Camara	14	Aaron Bennett
15	Paul Ivanic	16	Daniel Lettieri
16	Ned Aleksic	17	Josaia S. Junior
17	Mile Kosanovic	18	Luke Flynn
18	Michael McKenna	19	Michael Beauchamp
19	Stephen Lee	20	Matthew Nash

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited. Offenders will be arrested and charged.

Match Day Team Lists

1	Angelo Konstantinou	1	David Aceski
2	Con Anthopoulos	2	Chad Gibson
3	Toplica Popovich	3	Mark Babic
4	Andrew Ravanello	4	Angelo Costanzo
5	Nicholas Purdue	5	Dominic Longo
6	Naoki Imaya	6	Pan Keun Kim
7	Mark Hagger	7	James Afkos
8	David Milin	8	Darren McDonald
9	Alex Castro	9	Norman Tome
10	Jon Angelucci	10	John Maisano
11	David Arranz	11	Christian Care
12	Milton Cortes	12	Saso Radulovic
13	Shane Lyons	13	Raphael Bove
14	Andy Rakic	14	Buddy Farah
15	Marcus Phillips	15	Royce Brownlie
16	Ilija Prenzoski	16	Harry Karl
17	Robbie Hooker	17	John Gibson
18	Brad Scott	18	Mike Smith
19	Hiroshi Miyazawa	19	Brendan Renaud
20	Barney Smith	20	Michael Turnbull
		21	Simon Bell
		22	Kris Trajanovski
		23	Vlado Zoric
		24	Josaia Sauturaga Junior
		25	Archie Thompson
		27	Grant Last
		30	Daniel Schwarzer

Head Coach: Tom Sermanni
Assistant Coach: Tony Brennan



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to The City Club Cosmos Man of the Match Winner against Adelaide City Force, Hiroshi Miyazawa.

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Hall of Fame

The Honours Committee of Soccer Australia is seeking your assistance in obtaining nominations for the Year 2001 Hall of Fame.

Nominees must have contributed to the code on a national level, either on the field (player) or off the field (official, coach, referee, media).

Players have to be retired at least three years before being eligible for nomination but non-players can be nominated at any time.

Closing date for nominations is 16 February 2001 and nomination forms can be obtained from the Cosmos office or Soccer Australia.

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UC Youth Cosmos - Player Profile

Stephen Kemp

The UC Youth Cosmos have been plagued by injury in their inaugural season. For instance, take Stephen Kemp. Recognised as one of the most talented players in the squad, the 18-year-old central midfielder almost broke into the Cosmos first team at the start of this season. Instead, he broke his ankle.

"The first game of the season I was on the bench for the first team," Stephen says. "I played a supposedly 'friendly' game the next day with the Youth team, went into a tackle and unfortunately I came off second best and a bit of bone chipped off my ankle."

Despite having to undergo an operation and missing the next 12 weeks of the season, Stephen has already put that tackle behind him.

"It's part of the game, I don't hold any grudges about it," he says.

Stephen made his long-awaited return to the Youth Cosmos lineup in their 2-0 away win against Northern Spirit, but missed the next two matches due to tonsillitis. Nevertheless, it's surely just a matter of time before the Cosmos faithful get to see Stephen in action for Tom Sermanni's team.

A Belnorth junior from under 7s to under 14s, Stephen progressed quickly through the local leagues, moving from the under 19s (Belconnen United), to the under 23s and first grade (Gungahlin Juventus) competitions in successive years.

Stephen decided to take a break from the game last local season, and given his run of poor luck with injury since his return, is itching to get back on to the pitch and show what he can do.

While his long term goal is to spend another year in Australia before trying his luck in Europe, Stephen's more immediate aims are much more simple-helping the UC Youth Cosmos to improve their National Youth League standing.

"We've been very much under-performing," Stephen says, citing a lack of defensive discipline after going ahead against the QAS and NSW, as being crucial.

"In the second round we've got to have a lot of results going our way where they haven't been this first round."

Greg Welsh

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Supporters Club

Well, it's been three weeks but we're finally back at Bruce. The Supporters Club and the rest of the Sermanni Army are ready to support our team as we enter the second half of the season and the countdown to the finals. With the Cosmos hovering just outside the six, there's every possibility that the remainder of the season will be very exciting indeed!

Our next Supporters Club away trip will be to the match against Sydney Olympic on Sunday 1 April 2001, time and venue to be confirmed. Please contact Andrew McDonald on (02) 6266-2329 for details or e-mail: cosmosbus@yahoo.com. Alternatively, talk to the Supporters Club committee members at Bruce Stadium home games at half time. Coach ticket prices are $25, or $10 for children under 15. This will entitle supporters to a return seat on our luxury coach. Cosmos Supporters Club members will receive a discount on the price of the fare.

Additional information about away trips can be found on the Supporters Club page at the Canberra Cosmos website, www.cosmosfc.com. Watch the websites for details regarding the next trip and for possibilities of supporters planning trips to matches in other states and/or NZ.

Join the Cosmos Supporters Club from now until the end of the season and receive membership at special rates. These are: adults $10, juniors (under 17) $5 and families $20. The fee entitles members to a newsletter "Cosmic Kick", invitation to members functions, a discount on Cosmos away bus trips and a discount of 50% on the "Canberra Cosmos Supporters Anthem" CD by Ice Cream Headache.

Cheques and money orders payable to Canberra Cosmos Supporters Club can be posted to:

Canberra Cosmos Supporters Club, PO Box 4136, KINGSTON, ACT 2604.

Inquiries can be directed to Supporters Club President, Peter Kunz, via e-mail at: plkunz@ozemail.com.au or by telephone on (02) 6281-2900 (ah).

The Supporters Group will be soon be organising polling for the annual Player of the Year Award. Supporters can vote for their favourite Cosmos player at home games from 24 February until the end of Round 30 (at the last home game). Voting forms and ballot boxes will be available at the Cosmos Merchandise Shop and selected locations on the concourse.

A fund-raising "Chocolate Drive" is being held to help finance Supporters Club activities. Keep an eye out for Supporters Club Members selling boxes of Cadbury's Chocolates.

There will be another Supporters Club members' function before the end of the season. Further information will be available when the date is finalised. Check the websites for details or watch this column.

The City Club continues to provide the "Cosmos Express" ACTION Bus to home games at Bruce Stadium. On Match Day supporters can meet at the City Club for a few pre-match drinks at "Happy Hour" prices and get a ride to and from the game on the bright red "Cosmos Express" bus. The "Cosmos Express" will depart from The City Club at around 5.45pm and return from Bruce after the game at 8.45pm. Passengers can then join other Cosmos fans and City Club members for post-match festivities at The City Club, where they will also receive a complimentary glass of TOOHEYS NEW. For further details about this brilliant arrangement for City Club members and guests, supporters should contact the club on 6248-8917. Supporters Club members are also encouraged to check out the special deals on City Club membership.

Tonight we welcome Marconi Stallions back to Bruce. With Marconi sitting in the top six on the table and Canberra just outside the six, we look forward to an exciting encounter. Our best wishes to our Canberra Cosmos for tonight's match against Marconi Stallions.

Ooh aah Can-ber-ra! Say, ooh aah Can-ber-ra!!!

Darren M. Churchill Tel: (0412) 196-473

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National Youth League Table

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1	A.I.S.	15	11	2	2	36	15	35
2	Marconi Stallions	14	10	2	2	34	8	32
3	Parramatta Power	15	10	1	4	44	20	31
4	Wollongong Wolves	14	7	4	3	31	14	25
5	Northern Spirit	13	8	1	4	29	17	25
6	Newcastle United	14	8	1	5	23	14	25
7	Sydney Olympic	14	7	2	5	34	27	23
8	Sydney United	15	7	1	7	31	30	22
9	Marconi Stallions Colts	15	7	0	8	34	26	21
10	N.S.W.I.S.	15	6	2	7	19	31	20
11	**Canberra Cosmos**	**14**	**5**	**3**	**6**	**29**	**25**	**18**
12	Q.A.S.	15	5	1	9	23	41	16
13	Sydney Olympic Acad.	14	2	3	9	16	31	9
14	ACT Academy	15	1	1	13	7	56	4
15	Newcastle United Colts	12	1	0	11	6	36	3

National Soccer League Table

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1	South Melbourne	16	11	4	1	32	9	37
2	Perth Glory	16	9	3	3	36	16	31
3	Sydney Olympic	16	9	3	4	25	14	30
4	Marconi Stallions	16	8	5	3	25	15	29
5	Wollongong Wolves	14	8	4	2	28	17	28
6	Parramatta Power	16	8	1	7	26	21	25
7	Melbourne Knights	16	7	3	6	29	26	24
8	Adelaide City Force	15	7	2	6	24	26	23
9	Sydney United	16	6	5	5	22	25	23
10	**Canberra Cosmos**	**16**	**5**	**3**	**7**	**27**	**26**	**21**
11	Northern Spirit	15	5	4	6	18	17	19
12	Kingz FC	16	5	4	7	22	26	19
13	Brisbane Strikers	16	4	4	8	26	31	16
14	Newcastle United	16	3	6	7	14	28	15
15	Eastern Pride	16	2	4	10	18	27	10
16	Carlton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Jon Angelucci in full flight and a head above the rest as he leads another Cosmos attack against Northern Spirit on 5 January 2001. Cosmos won 2-0.

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It's no fluke that we've packed February, March and April with most of our 2000/2001 games at Bruce Stadium: nine out of our 15 home games, as a matter of fact! We're going to be the feared "bogey team" of the NSL in the run up to the finals, and we'll be looking for our highest ever NSL finish. With the local season kicking off as well, too much soccer won't be enough! Join our 1,000 Stars Club now by buying a discounted season pass for the remainder of the season. Our recently discounted prices, of $150 for families, $95 for adults, $50 for concessions and $35 for kids (GST inclusive) represent great value! Order on the season pass page on our website at www.cosmosfc.com or call the Cosmos office on 6281 7981.

Autographs

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After the game, the players will be available next to the Cosmos dugout to sign autographs